

# VOICES

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## THE DAILY TIMES

A Gannett Newspaper  
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### CHEERS

#### Victory for fairness



Maryland's new "No Representation Without Population Act" requires that inmate populations be counted by the U.S. Census, but not in the district where the prison is located.

Instead, those inmates will be counted in the populations of their home districts — but with an important caveat: this exclusion is only for the purpose of establishing election districts. Somerset County will benefit from this new law; ideally this would happen through election of Somerset's first-ever black member to the County Commissioners. Since inmates are not eligible to vote while incarcerated, the roughly 73 percent black inmate population at Eastern Correctional Institution in Somerset County skewed demographics, rendering the court-ordered minority district in which it is located unable to elect a black commissioner. Perhaps now Somerset County's governing body will begin to more accurately represent the county's 42 percent African-American population.

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